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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,883	04/13/2004	Kenneth Merdan	1001.1748101	4001
28075	7590	10/10/2006	EXAMINER	
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC 1221 NICOLLET AVENUE SUITE 800 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420			ELVE, MARIA ALEXANDRA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1725		

DATE MAILED: 10/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/822,883	MERDAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Alexandra Elve	1725	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCoy (USPAP 2003/0234243 A1) in view of Flanagan (USPN 6,696,667) and Shedlov (USPN 6,874,789).

The applied reference(s) (USPN 6,696,667 & 6,874,789) has a common assignee/inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C.

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103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

McCoy discloses a multi-axis laser apparatus for the fine cutting of tubing (i.e. the making of stents). Tubes are affixed under a laser and positioned using a computer-generated signal in order to move the tube in a very intricate and precise pattern around a linear and rotary axis. A water system is incorporated in the apparatus to remove debris falling into the interior of the cut tube and to push discrete portions of the cut tube (or stents) into a parts catcher to separate the stent from the uncut portion of the tube. The tubing is feed by reciprocal relative movement through a cutting block by a collet relative to the clamp, which positions a finite length of the tubing beneath the beam. The pattern cut is controlled by movement of the tubing relative to the beam simultaneously along an X (length) and Y axis (rotary) controlled by a computerized encoder as part of a CNC positioning equipment. A computer software controlled rotary and linear movement subassembly apparatus. The cutting of the tubing is conducted on an x-axis table, which has a combination of rotary (y-axis) and linear (x-axis) movements of the tubing relative to the cutting laser beam. (abstract, figures, 0017, 0019, 0025, 0028, 0033)

McCoy teaches linear and rotary movement assemblies, but not specifically a motor. Additionally, teaches one table (surface) but not two surfaces.

Flanagan discloses a system for the manufacturing of a stent using laser cutting. A typical laser arrangement has a laser, which produces a beam, which is conditioned via an optical unit and focused into a spot beam, which is impinged against a hollow

tube. Hollow tubes may be rotated via a rotational motor drive and linearly translated via linear motion drive. The laser beam may be split and reflected on to the tubing (figure 10). (abstract, figures, col. 1, col. 5, col. 6)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use rotary and linear motors as taught by Flanagan in the McCoy system because these are merely movement assemblies as disclosed by McCoy.

Shedlov discloses a rotary motor assembly, which is used to laser cut stents. Figures 1 and 2 show different platforms (surfaces) for the apparatus. (abstract, figures)

it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use multiple surfaces, as taught by Shedlov in the McCoy system because this is merely a variation of the apparatus layout and would minimize real estate and make to best use of manufacturing floor space.

Reversal of parts was held to have been obvious. In re Gazda 104 USPQ 400. Rearrangement of parts was held to have been obvious. In re Japikse 86 USPQ 70. The type of materials chosen is a choice in design and substitution of known equivalent structures (table for granite) has been held obvious. In re Kuhle 188 USPQ (CCPA 1975), In re Ruff 118 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1958).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/7/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine Flanagan and McCoy with respect to the application of motors. The examiner respectfully disagrees because the provision of mechanical or automated means to replace manual activity was held to have been obvious. *In re Venner* 120 USPQ 192.

Applicant argues that Shedlov use of motors does not disclose a rotary motor and a linear motor. The examiner respectfully notes that Shedlov is used in the broad sense of using a motor in assembly, which cuts tubular material. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Alexandra Elve whose telephone number is 571-272-1173. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00 Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 1, 2006.



M. Alexandra Elve
Primary Examiner 1725